

## Police Aim to Save Lives with "Booze It & Lose It"

Due to the increase in drunken-driving-related fatalities around the holidays each year, state and local law enforcement agencies across North Carolina were out in full force for the holiday Booze It & Lose It



The Governor's Highway Safety Program reminds drivers not to drink and drive.

campaign. The statewide campaign lasted from December 11, 2015 through Jan. 3.

Their efforts resulted in 3,074 DWI charges in which 252 were drug-related charges and 2,822 were alcohol related.

Nearly 350 law enforcement agencies participated in the campaign, issuing 105,020 traffic and criminal citations in addition to the 2,822 DWI charges at 10,914 checking stations and saturation patrols across the state.

The top five counties for DWI arrests during the campaign were as follows:

- Wake County - 260;
- Guilford County - 208;
- Mecklenburg County - 168;
- Cumberland County - 136; and
- Forsyth County - 125.

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## NCDMV Updates Come to the Mountains

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**NCDMV updates, like the ones at this office, are working to improve customer service and reduce wait times at DMV offices.**

NCDMV offices have undergone equipment installation and updates around the state. Local offices in Division 14 counties that have already updated their facilities include:

- Cherokee (Andrews, Nov. 16),
- Haywood (Clyde, Nov. 16),
- Henderson (Hendersonville, Nov. 5),
- Jackson (Sylva, Nov. 19),
- Macon (Franklin, Nov. 18),
- Swain (Bryson City, Nov. 17) and
- Transylvania (Brevard, Dec. 8).

New cameras, scanners, printers and, for the first time, credit card machines are now in 114 driver license offices across North Carolina to provide faster driver license and ID card applications.

"NCDMV is making all DMV functions faster and much easier for citizens," said Division of Motor Vehicles Commissioner Kelly J. Thomas. "Governor McCrory is focused on making more DMV services available online and decreasing wait times in offices. We are 'Driving Change' at DMV."

Customers are reminded to call the their local offices to confirm appointments and operating hours.

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## **Board Approves Transportation Projects' Acceleration**

Last week, members of the North Carolina Board of Transportation approved the amended project schedules of many transportation projects across the state. Late last year, Governor Pat McCrory announced that the final leg of the eastern section of the Winston-Salem Northern Beltway, the Asheville Connector, the Weddington Road/I-485 interchange and the Mid-Currituck bridge are among the numerous projects that will be accelerated thanks to the reforms of the 2015-17 budget the governor signed into law.

Local Division 14 projects also are being accelerated and additional projects can be found [here](#).

"The reforms I signed into law will get these roads built sooner," Governor

McCrory said. "The primary purpose of the reforms was to ensure transportation funds were being spent on transportation projects and not diverted to other state programs."

The budget reforms signed by Governor McCrory added over \$700 million in new funding for transportation over two years and ended the annual transfer of \$216 million from the Highway Fund to the General Fund. Over 10 years, these budget reforms are projected to provide an additional \$1.6 billion for North Carolina Department of Transportation construction projects.

"These budget reforms, coupled with our 25-Year Vision and the new transportation funding formula that emphasizes congestion relief, safety and job-creation will make North Carolina more competitive and prepared for future economic growth," Governor McCrory said.

Significant new and accelerated highway projects made possible by the additional revenue include

- Funding all four sections of the final leg of the eastern section of the Winston-Salem Northern Beltway, which is also part of the Future Interstate 74 corridor (only segment A had been funded). The interchange at U.S. 52 also is funded;
- Accelerating by three years the Weddington Road/I-485 interchange in Mecklenburg County;
- Accelerating by one year into the first five years of the STIP Segment B of the Asheville Connector; and
- Accelerating by two years the Mid-Currituck Bridge, a toll bridge in Currituck County.

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